

SENATE BILL 197

By Gilmore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,  
relative to a polling place pilot program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The county election commission in a county with a metropolitan form of government and a population of more than five hundred thousand (500,000), according to the 2010 and any subsequent federal census, shall collaborate with the governing body of such county, the secretary of state, and the sheriff of the county to:

- (1) Establish one (1) or more satellite voting locations at detention facilities within the county where eligible voters are confined or detained; and
- (2) Register eligible voters detained at such facilities.

(b) Voting at a satellite voting location may be conducted on one (1) or more days and during hours within the period for early voting or on election day as determined by the county election commission.

(c) The schedules for conducting voting do not need to be uniform among the satellite voting locations.

(d) Only a resident of the county who is in custody at a county jail is eligible to vote at a satellite voting location established under this section. A satellite voting location established under this section must allow a voter to vote in the same elections that the voter would otherwise be entitled to vote but for the detainee's detention. To the maximum extent feasible, voting booths or screens must be provided to ensure the privacy of the voter. All provisions of this title applicable to poll watchers apply to a

satellite voting location under this section, subject to approval by the county election commission.

(e) The county election commission shall collaborate with the sheriff of the county to facilitate voter registration for detainees of a county jail eligible to vote in the county. A county jail shall provide a voter registration application to a person in custody at the jail who requests an application and who is determined to be eligible to vote.

(f) Each county jail in the county shall make available current resource materials, maintained by the county election commission and secretary of state, containing detailed information regarding the voting rights of a person with a criminal conviction in print.

(g) This section expires on December 31, 2022.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.